

§ 15.601

Coast-Guard issued merchant mariner's document described in subpart 12.40 of this subchapter:

(1) May only be employed in the steward's department on the vessel(s) specified on the merchant mariner's document or accompanying Coast Guard letter under §12.40-13(b)(1) of this subchapter;

(2) May only be employed for an aggregate period of 36 months actual service on all authorized U.S.-flag large passenger vessels combined, under §12.40-13(c) of this subchapter;

(3) May not perform watchstanding, engine room duty watch, or vessel navigation functions, under §12.40-13(b)(4) of this subchapter; and

(4) May perform emergency-related duties only if, under §12.40-13(b)(5) of this subchapter:

(i) The emergency-related duties do not require any other rating or endorsement, except lifeboatman as specified in §12.40-13(a)(3) of this subchapter;

(ii) The non-resident alien has completed familiarization and basic safety training, as required in §15.1105 of this part;

(iii) That if the non-resident alien serves as a lifeboatman, he or she must have the necessary lifeboatman's endorsement; and

(iv) The non-resident alien has completed the training for crewmembers on passenger ships performing duties involving safety or care for passengers, as required in subpart 12.35 of this subchapter.

(d) No more than 25 percent of the total number of unlicensed seamen on a U.S.-flag large passenger vessel may be aliens, whether admitted to the United States for permanent residence or otherwise allowed to be employed in the United States as non-resident aliens.

(e) The owner or operator of a U.S.-flag large passenger vessel employing non-resident aliens holding Coast Guard-issued merchant mariner's documents described in subpart 12.40 of this subchapter must:

(1) Retain custody of all non-resident alien merchant mariner's documents for the duration of employment, under §12.40-13(b)(2) of this subchapter; and

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(2) Return all non-resident alien merchant mariner's documents to the Coast Guard upon termination of employment, under §12.40-13(b)(3) of this subchapter.

(f) The owner or operator of a U.S.-flag large passenger vessel employing non-resident aliens holding Coast Guard-issued merchant mariner's documents described in subpart 12.40 of this subchapter is subject to the civil penalty provisions specified in 46 U.S.C. 8103(f), for any violation of this section.

[USCG-2007-27761, 72 FR 20286, Apr. 24, 2007]

Subpart E—Manning Requirements; Uninspected Vessels

§ 15.601 General.

The following sections of subparts F, G, and H of this part contain provisions concerning manning of uninspected vessels; §§ 15.701, 15.705, 15.710, 15.720, 15.730, 15.801, 15.805, 15.810, 15.820, 15.825, 15.840, 15.850, 15.855, 15.905, 15.910, and 15.915.

§ 15.605 Licensed operators for uninspected passenger vessels.

Each uninspected passenger vessel must be under the direction and control of an individual licensed by the Coast Guard as follows:

(a) Every self-propelled, uninspected vessel as defined by 46 U.S.C. 2101(42)(B), carrying not more than six passengers, must be under the direction and control of an individual holding a license as operator.

(b) Every uninspected passenger vessel of 100 gross tons or more, as defined by 46 U.S.C. 2101(42)(A), must be under the direction and control of a licensed master, pilot, or mate as appropriate.

[USCG-1999-5040, 67 FR 34767, May 15, 2002]

§ 15.610 Master and mate (pilot) of towing vessels.

(a) Except as provided in this paragraph, every towing vessel of at least 8 meters (at least 26 feet) in length, measured from end to end over the deck (excluding sheer), must be under the direction and control of a person licensed as master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels or as master or mate of

vessels of greater than 200 gross register tons holding either an endorsement on his or her license for towing vessels or a completed Towing Officer's Assessment Record (TOAR) signed by a designated examiner indicating that the officer is proficient in the operation of towing vessels. This does not apply to any vessel engaged in assistance towing, or to any towing vessel of less than 200 gross register tons engaged in exploiting offshore minerals or oil if the vessel has sites or equipment so engaged as its place of departure or ultimate destination.

(b) An officer may continue to operate towing vessels within any restrictions of his or her license from May 21, 2001, until the first renewal or upgrade of that license, but not later than May 21, 2006. Every towing vessel covered by paragraph (a) of this section must carry at least the following personnel:

(1) An officer designated Master and holding a license as—

- (i) Master of towing vessels;
- (ii) Master of towing vessels (Limited) when operating solely within a limited local area;
- (iii) Operator of uninspected towing vessels;
- (iv) Master of inspected, self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license; or
- (v) Mate or first-class pilot of inspected, self-propelled vessels with a license for service in vessels of greater than 200 gross register tons (Domestic service only).

(2) Another officer, if the vessel is operating more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period, holding a license—

- (i) Listed in 46 CFR 15.610(b)(1);
- (ii) As mate (pilot) of towing vessels;
- (iii) As second-class OUTV; or
- (iv) As mate of inspected, self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license.

(c) Paragraph (b) of this section applies until the officer's first renewal or upgrade of license after May 21, 2001.

(d) Any towing vessel operating in the pilotage waters of the Lower Mississippi River must be under the control of an officer who holds a first-class pilot's license or endorsement for that route, or meets the requirements of either paragraph (d)(1) or paragraph (d)(2) of this section as applicable:

(1) To operate a towing vessel with tank barges, or a tow of barges carrying hazardous materials regulated under part N or O of this subchapter, an officer in charge of the towing vessel must have completed 12 round trips over this route as an observer, with at least 3 of those trips during hours of darkness, and at least 1 round trip of the 12 within the last 5 years.

(2) To operate a towing vessel without barges, or a tow of uninspected barges, an officer in charge of the towing vessel must have completed at least four round trips over this route as an observer, with at least one of those trips during hours of darkness, and at least one round trip of the 12 within the last 5 years.

[USCG-1999-6224, 66 FR 20944, Apr. 26, 2001, as amended at 68 FR 35818, June 17, 2003]

Subpart F—Limitations and Qualifying Factors

§ 15.701 Officers Competency Certificates Convention, 1936.

(a) This section implements the Officers Competency Certificates Convention, 1936, and applies to each vessel documented under the laws of the United States navigating seaward of the Boundary Lines in part 7 of this chapter, except:

- (1) A public vessel;
- (2) A wooden vessel of primitive build, such as a dhow or junk;
- (3) A barge; and,
- (4) A vessel of less than 200 gross tons.

(b) The master, mates and engineers on any vessel to which this section applies must hold a license to serve in that capacity issued by the Coast Guard under part 10 of this chapter.

(c) A vessel to which this section applies, or a foreign flag vessel to which the Convention applies, may be detained by a designated official until that official is satisfied that the vessel is in compliance with the Convention. *Designated official* includes Coast Guard officers, Coast Guard petty officers and officers or employees of the Customs Service.

(d) Whenever a vessel is detained, the owner, charterer, managing operator, agent, master, or individual in charge may appeal the detention within five